



Filed Via Express Mail pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.10

Rec. No.: EV 332 248 667 US

On: JULY 20, 2004

By: 

LINDA E. HASTINGS

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**Attorney Docket No.: NEKA 18.612 (100806-00199)**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Inventor: Yoshihisa MATSUBARA et al.

Serial No.: 09/840,386

Filed: April 23, 2001

Title: **METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING SEMICONDUCTOR  
DEVICE, AND PROCESSING SYSTEM AND  
SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE**

Examiner: Lan Vinh

Group Art Unit: 1765

Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT**

S I R:

**Introductory Comments**

In response to the Office Action issued January 21, 2004, the period for response being set to expire on April 21, 2004, the period for response not being extended for more than three months, please amend the subject application as follows: